

BOROUGH of DORCHESTER.

Statement on Public Health for the year 1945.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dorchester.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Summary. The following cases (including non-Cerebrospinal civilians) were notified:-

“Fever 1; Dysentery (Sonne) 1; Erysipelas 3; Malaria 1; Measles 99; Puerperal pyrexia 5; Scarlet Fever 11; Tuberculosis (pulmonary) 7; Tuberculosis (other forms) 3; Whooping Cough 3. Total 134..

Measles. There was an outbreak of Measles in June, which extended into July. It was not connected with any particular school or milk supply.

Scarlet Fever. Sporadic cases occurred during the year from March to December. In two instances, two cases occurred in the same house. Two cases were notified but subsequently found not to be cases of Scarlet Fever. None were associated with any particular school or milk supply.

Puerperal Pyrexia. All the five cases notified were patients in the Dorset County Hospital.

Scabies. Two cases were treated at the Dorchester Cleansing Station, and 42 at the Weymouth Cleansing Station. There is no whole time or paid staff for this work at Dorchester. It is almost impossible to arrange for trained voluntary personnel to undertake this work.

IMMUNISATION against Diphtheria. Clinics were held in March, and the following 50 children were immunised:-

	<u>Under 5 years of age.</u>	<u>Over 5 years of age.</u>
Dorchester County School for Girls	-	2
Convent School	-	2
R.C. Elementary School. ...	-	1
Junior Boys School	-	9
West Fordington Infants School..	-	1
Dorchester Council School ...	2	15
Fordington St. George Infants School	3	4
Dorchester Grammar School ...	-	1
Dorchester Senior School ...	-	10
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	5	45
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"Wellcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic, Alum Precipitated Toxoid was used in all cases, in doses of 0.3 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with four weeks interval.

In addition to the above 111 infants were immunised at the Child Welfare Centre.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Certain premises in the Borough are still being used as Government Slaughter-houses by the Ministry of Food, and slaughtering now takes place locally for the distribution of meat to the following areas:-

Dorchester Borough, Dorchester Rural District, Portland, Swanage, Wareham Borough, Wareham Rural District and Weymouth.

Assistance in the work of meat inspection has been given throughout the year by Inspectors from all but one of the districts mentioned above, and their help is much appreciated. A Government Slaughter-house is established in the excepted area, and for this reason no local help has been requested.

During the year 485 visits have been paid to the Slaughter-houses and 12,834 animal carcasses have been examined, as follows:-

Bovines 2,967, Calves 3,502, Sheep 5,776, Pigs 563, Goats 26.

The undermentioned quantities of meat and offal have been found to be unfit for human food and consequently condemned:-

Beef	-	67,520 lbs.
Mutton	-	1,302 "
Pork	-	1,968 "
Veal	-	317 "
Offal	-	46,402 "
Total	:-	117,509 lbs.

Over 38 tons 4 cwt. 0 qrs. 22 lbs. was condemned owing to tuberculosis; the remainder was unfit owing to various diseases.

ANIMAL CARCASSES EXAMINED - 1945.

	Cattle.		Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
	Exclud- ing Cows.	Cows			
Number killed (if known)	904	1811	2804	5002	447
Number inspected	904	1811	2804	5002	447
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	23	2	10	1
	.11%	1.27%	.07%	.19%	.22%
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	131	375	29	604	59
	14.49%	20.70%	1.03%	12.07%	13.19%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	84	1	-	4
	.66%	4.63%	.03%	-	.89%
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	185	575	8	-	28
	20.47%	31.75%	.28%	-	6.26%

UN SOUND FOOD

Additional food, as set out below, was found to be unsound and unfit for human food and was, therefore, condemned and destroyed or used for salvage purposes where possible:-

Milk	-	382 tins.		
Bacon	-	771 lbs.	Jam	- 24 lbs.
Biscuits	-	147 "	Meat	- 3,463 "
Chocolate	-	19 "	Meat Pies	- 47 "
Cocoa	-	19 "	Sausages	- 36 "
Fish	-	526 "	" Rolls	- 194 "
Fish Cakes	-	120 "	Sugar	- 26 "
Fruit	-	283 "	Tea	5 "
			Vegetables	- 407 "

Total weight: 6,087 lbs. or 2 tons 14 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lbs.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

Defective condition of houses	...	27
House drainage	...	26
Overcrowding	...	4
Foul accumulations	...	2
Animals kept in insanitary condition.		1
Rat or mouse infestations	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	24

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HOUSE DRAINAGE.

All new drainage work in connection with both Old and New Buildings has been supervised, examined and tested, and for this purpose 62 visits have been paid to various premises within the Borough.

HOUSE REPAIRS.

During the year 26 houses were found to be unfit for human habitation in certain respects, which resulted in the service of 26 informal notices, followed in 13 instances by formal notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In only three cases has the requisite work not yet been carried out. In one other instance the matter is being dealt with under an undertaking by a new owner to re-condition the premises.

INFECTIOUS ILLNESS.

24 rooms have been disinfected throughout the year, and in each case the infected bedding, etc., has been removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection; 446 articles have been so treated during the year.

In addition to the above, 14 other lots of bedding have been treated in the disinfectant following arrangements made with the owners after the occurrence of non-notifiable illnesses.

MILK

In an endeavour to improve conditions under which milk is produced and sold, 26 samples of milk have been obtained from various establishments and forwarded for bacteriological examination. The reports thereon have been submitted to the appropriate Committee who then gave instructions as to the action to be taken.

Under the Milk (special designations) order, 1936, the following licences were granted by the Council:-

- 2 - For bottling Tuberculin Tested milk.
- 1 - Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised milk.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

During the year 37 licences for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit were issued, one of which was in connection with a transfer. During the year 14 further licences were granted when the Government allowed certain tanks, which had been closed under war restrictions, to be re-opened.

Five licences for the storage of Carbide of Calcium were also renewed.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

During the year 1945 the following evacuees have been accommodated in billets in this Borough:-

	<u>New Arrivals.</u>	<u>Total No. billeted.</u>
Unaccompanied children	15	115
Mothers with children	9	130
Adults (aged, etc.)	<u>1</u>	<u>40</u>
	25	285
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